

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FAUNA OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

No. 1.

By L. GLAUERT, W.A. Museum, Perth, by permission of the
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(Read December 13, 1921.)

Petrogale rothschildi. Thomas.

In 1901 when collecting in North Western Australia on behalf of the Hon. Walter Rothschild and this Museum, Mr. John T. Tunney obtained one skin of a Rock Wallaby, which proved to be distinct from known species. It was examined by Mr. Oldfield Thomas and named as above.

The Museum has recently received three damaged skins (M527/529) of a Rock Wallaby, shot by Mr. L. Le Souef at Nicol Bay, which, upon examination, prove to belong to this rare and little known species. It is unfortunate that the skulls were not preserved, as the cranial features of the species are, as yet, unknown. It is hoped that it will be possible to obtain further specimens in the near future, so that an accurate diagnosis may be prepared.

The species is readily distinguished from *P. lateralis*, a form ranging from Kimberley to the South Coast, by its shorter and coarser fur, its dark head and ears and the absence or indistinct development of the nuchal stripe and flank markings.

Dasymercus cristicauda (Krefft.)

In 1907 the Museum received a skin of a species of *Phascogale* from Mr. A. W. Canning, who had recently returned to Perth after surveying a stock route from Wiluna to Kimberley. Owing to its imperfect state and the lack of other material, the identity of the animal could not be established with certainty, and the matter was therefore, deferred until a more favourable opportunity.

Mr. E. Le G. Troughton, of the Australian Museum, Sydney, who has recently been collecting in South Australia, obtained a fine series of *Dasymercus cristicauda* on the Nullarbor Plains, with which

the Canning skin has been compared. It is now possible to make a definite record of the presence of this Central Australian species in Western Australia. The skin was obtained 500 miles North of Wiluna, which would be somewhere in the vicinity of Mount Romilly, say, 20 degrees 20 minutes S. and 126 degrees E.

Nyctalus noctula (Schreber.)

This Bat, which has been recorded from a vast area, including Europe, Northern Africa, the mainland of Asia, Japan, Java and other islands of the Dutch East Indies, has not up to the present been reported for Australia. In 1899 Mr. J. T. Tunney obtained five specimens near Lawlers, which were submitted to Mr. Oldfield Thomas, of the British Museum. Mr. Thomas states that he can find no point of difference between the specimens from Lawlers and those obtained in Europe.

Halobaena caerulea (Gmelin.)

A specimen of this rare Blue Petrel was found on the beach, North Fremantle, by Mr. B. R. Lucas, on October 12th, 1921, and presented to the Museum. This is an interesting record, as it constitutes the third occasion upon which the bird has been found on the Australian mainland.

Mr. Gregory M. Mathews has a specimen picked up on a beach in Victoria. Mr. Edwin Ashby records a specimen found on the jetty at Port Willunga, in South Australia, on April 29th, 1914, as reported in the South Australian Ornithologist, Vol. I., Part 3, page 15, July, 1914. As I can find no other reference, I conclude that the specimen from North Fremantle, in addition to being the first record for Western Australia, is the third for Australia.

Podiceps cristatus (L.)

A specimen of the Great Crested Grebe was purchased from Mr. Ostle, who shot it on Herdsman's Lake on December 5th 1921. This bird is rarely seen in Western Australia, only three specimens are in the Museum collection and no other Western Australian specimens are known.

Trachynotus botla. Shaw.

The Dart, which is a common food fish in the Eastern States, is not often seen in local fish shops, as its usual range in Western Australian waters appears to be north of Geraldton. The Chief Inspector of Fisheries (Mr. F. Aldrich), recently presented a fine specimen caught off Fremantle.

Thyrsites atun. Euphr.

There is in the Museum collection one specimen of Barracouta, purchased at the Fremantle fish market in 1908, which may be regarded as a definite record of the presence of this fish in Western Australian waters. It is unfortunate that a more definite locality is not available.

Lingula tumidula. Reeve.

This striking Brachiopod, which has previously been recorded from the Philippines and Queensland, is an addition to the Invertebrate Fauna of the State.

The specimen exhibited was obtained near Broome Lighthouse and presented to the Museum by an enthusiastic local Conchologist, Mr. E. H. Bardwell. The species is one of the largest, if not actually the largest living species and is also remarkable for the breadth of the shell features, which readily distinguish it from all known recent *Lingulas*.

Cilicæa latreillei (Leach.)

In March last, Mr. Stanley, Assistant Engineer at the Henderson Naval Base, submitted for examination a piece of white wood, very much damaged by boring animals. The wood had been submerged at a depth of 42 feet for about 12 months, and during that time had become completely riddled by "ship worms," and an Isopod Crustacean, which I have been able to identify as *Cilicæa latreillei* (Leach), previously recorded from King George Sound. The economic importance of the discovery lies in the fact that this species has not previously been recorded as a wood-destroying Crustacean.

There is no doubt from the nature of the chambers and galleries that the Crustacean was responsible for the cavities in which it was found.

Sphaeroma guoyana (M—Edw.)

This Isopod Crustacean, which is known to bore into soft rock and wood in Eastern Australia and New Zealand, was found in great numbers when I was examining a damaged pile raised from the water in my presence at the North Wharf, Fremantle, on March 8th last.

This constitutes the first record of the presence of this dangerous little Isopod in Western Australia.

As a result of further investigations, it was found to be infesting timber at Crawley, where it was in the unsound keel of a boat belonging to the Sea Scouts' organisation.
